

FACT SHEET



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

Amendment to the U.S.-Spain Agreement on Defense Cooperation

For 62 years, Spain has hosted U.S. military personnel, contributing to European and global security and strengthening NATO's capabilities. The United States bases almost about 4,000 military personnel in Spain on Spanish bases at Rota and Morón. The third protocol of amendment to the Agreement on Defense Cooperation (ADC) changes the current deployment of a U.S. crisis response force in Morón from temporary to permanent and authorizes an increase in U.S. personnel and aircraft. The force protects citizens and facilities of the United States, Spain, and other NATO Allies in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, and supports efforts to stabilize areas of shared concern. Following ratification by the Spanish Parliament on September 2nd, the amendment will be in force after an exchange of diplomatic notes expected to occur after the final vote.

The third amendment to the ADC also allows for a maximum long-term U.S. military presence at Moron Air Base of 2,200 military personnel, 500 U.S. Defense Department civilian employees, and 36 aircraft. This includes crisis response personnel and the legacy U.S. Air Force presence already authorized at the base. There are currently about 850 Marines, 140 active duty Air Force personnel, and 17 U.S. planes stationed at Morón. At this time, it is not anticipated that current force levels will change significantly in the near-term as a result of this amendment.

Through U.S. consultations with the Spanish government, this amendment also allows for a surge capability of an additional 800 dedicated military Crisis Response Task Force personnel and 14 aircraft at Morón.

The presence of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Crisis Response (SPMAGTF-CR) in Spain has enabled a notable increase in joint training opportunities, with over 80 bilateral joint exercises between our militaries in the past two years alone – an increase of more than 80 percent year-on-year. With the long-term basing of the SPMAGTF-CR secure, increasing joint training with Spanish units will remain a priority, to the benefit of NATO interoperability.



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This amendment comes three years after the second protocol of amendment to the ADC, which granted permission to the United States to homeport four multi-mission ballistic missile defense-capable ships in Rota as Spain's contribution to NATO's ballistic missile defense. Three of the ships have already arrived, with the fourth due to join on September 25th.

These deployments to Rota and Morón demonstrate the strength of the U.S.-Spain partnership and the strategic importance of our defense cooperation.

Madrid, September 2, 2015



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